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REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed June 14, 2007, claims 1-16 and 46-74 were pending. Claims 46-57 have been allowed, and claims 8-14, 16, 59, 67-72 and 74 have been objected to but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-7, 15, 58, 60-66 and 73 stand rejected. Claims 1, 58 and 65 have been amended in this response, and claims 11 and 70 cancelled. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested since it places the application in condition for allowance and does not raise new issues for consideration since the limitations added to the claims were present in claims 11 and 70. Reconsideration of the present application as amended and including claims 1-10, 12-16, 46-69 and 71-74 is respectfully requested.

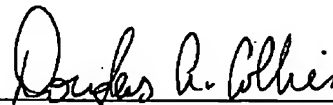
Claims 1-7, 15, 58, 60-66 and 73 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0234449 to Aferzon. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of original claim 10 and recite "wherein said guide member includes a bore extending along said guide axis" in combination with the other limitations recited in claim 1. Claims 58 and 65 have been similarly amended to recite that the guide instrument includes a guide member "defining a bore that extends along a guide axis intersecting said alignment axis when mounted to said pair of anchor extensions."

The Final Office Action identifies the guide member in Aferzon to be radial frame 44A, and the guide axis was asserted to extend from center point P at center hinge 130 to coupling rod connection points P1 and P2. Aferzon only discloses that center pivot hinge connecting arms 32A, 32B extend along the "guide axis" identified in the Final Office Action. There is no disclosure that center pivot hinge connection arms 32A, 32B include a bore extending along the "guide axis." Furthermore, even assuming that radial frame 44A is also part of the guide member, it does not include any bore that extends along the "guide axis" identified in the Final Office Action. Rather, radial frame 44A includes track 46A that extends along the length of radial frame 44A and that also opens along the face of radial frame 44A. Neither the lengthwise direction nor the opening direction of track 46A can be properly considered to be a bore extending along the "guide axis" extending between center point P and connection points P1 and P2. Accordingly, claims 1, 58 and 65 distinguish Aferzon and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance with pending claims 1-10, 12-16, 46-69, and 71-74. Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested. Timely action towards a Notice of Allowance is hereby solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any outstanding matters concerning the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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